

FORMALITIES

The Applicant brings to the Examiner's attention that a second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed on August 24, 2004, receipt of which was acknowledged by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the same day. The Applicant respectfully requests that, the Examiner consider the references cited thereon before issuing a subsequent action and, further, that the Examiner provide the Applicant with a copy of the Form PTO-1449, which has been duly initialed.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1-18 and claim 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-24 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Claims 1, 15-18, and 24 have been amended.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-18 and claim 24 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 15-18, and 24 have been amended. Therefore, the Applicant believes that, the grounds for rejection are moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that, claims 1-18 and claim 24 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 100, et seq., especially § 112, and are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-24 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,956,471 to Ueda ("Ueda" or the "Ueda Reference"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the grounds for rejection for the reasons provided below.

The invention as claimed provides a printing apparatus having a confidential print function and, more specifically, a confidential processing unit 17 that "checks the password entered from the input unit 19 against the password that is attached to the print data" (Specification, page 10, lines 12-14) and a queue management unit 16 that stores "print requests for the confidential prints with a print hold status" (Id., page 11, lines 8-10). As a result, printing of normal print jobs is carried out in order of reception; priority of printing confidential documents is given in the order of release of the hold status (Id., page 11, lines 19-20); printing of confidential documents takes precedence over normal print jobs; and, moreover, no confidential printing job immediately follows another confidential printing job (Id., page 12, lines 23-26).

In contrast, the Ueda reference merely discloses printing apparatuses and methods for printing text data requiring correlation verification after a manual operation. More specifically, main control part 104 controls output so that when text data requiring correlation verification is printed, it is printed face-down rather than face-up. See, e.g., Ueda, col. 5, lines 48-50. Thus, Ueda is vastly different than the present invention.

Claim 1 recites a printing apparatus comprising a function that holds confidential print jobs with normal print jobs in a queue until a password is entered to release a confidential print job; and a control unit for sequentially carrying out printing of the confidential print jobs in order of entry of the password in preference over the normal print jobs. However, Ueda does not teach, mention or suggest a queue management unit that sequentially carries out printing of password-attached print jobs in preference over normal print jobs as recited in claims 1, 15, 18, 19, 22, and 24. Furthermore, Ueda does not teach, mention or suggest a queue management

unit that executes confidential print jobs in order of release of hold status as recited in claims 2, 17-19, and 24.

The Examiner maintains that column 7, lines 37-47 disclose printing password-attached print jobs in order of entry and, further, that Figure 11 discloses a preference for printing password-attached print jobs over normal print jobs. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, the Ueda reference discloses that

When text data having no need for correlation is successively received from the host devices, the printing apparatus is not in the standby state, and the text data without the need for correlation can be printed in preference to text data requiring correlation.

Ueda, col. 7, lines 43-47 (emphasis added). Thus, Ueda teaches given a preference of normal print jobs over password-attached print jobs, which teaches away from the claim language. Furthermore, steps 29 and 30 of Ueda FIG. 11 merely disclose an inquiry decision step. If, at step 29, the entered password is correct, then the data are outputted to the printer (step 30). If, on the other hand, the password is incorrect, then the display panel displays a message that the password is wrong (step 31). See, e.g., Id., col. 8, line 62 to col. 9, line 4. There is nothing to suggest that Ueda provides a printing preference to password-attached print jobs over normal print jobs.

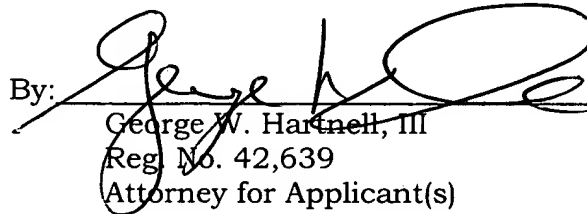
Therefore, the Applicant respectfully maintains that, claims 1-24 are not anticipated by the Ueda reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that, claims 1-24 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 100, et seq., especially § 102(b), and are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

The Applicant believes that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


George W. Hartnell, III
Reg. No. 42,639
Attorney for Applicant(s)

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
(617) 517-5523
Customer No. 21874
459178